

Molly Wunderli

LD 1351

Molly Wunderli
Bangor, Maine
2 March 2025

Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee Judiciary:

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Molly Wunderli, and I'm a resident of Bangor. I am testifying today in opposition of LD 1351.

I am deeply concerned about the possibility of the adoption of this definition of antisemitism, written by the IHRA. This definition dangerously conflates criticism of Israel and Zionism with antisemitism. As such, the adoption of this definition would greatly infringe on the people's free speech and our collective ability to help hold governments, like Israel, accountable. Of note, 7 of the 11 "contemporary examples of antisemitism" in the IHRA definition involve criticism of the state of Israel, and not the Jewish people. Historically, the definition has been used to target those who seek to document and criticize Israeli policies or human rights violations; this has included the targeting of students, professors, human rights groups, and members of Congress.

Furthermore, this definition was never intended to be used in a legal context, so it is both a bad definition and inappropriate for the purpose for which it is being considered.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective with the Committee. I urge you to oppose the passage of LD 1351. Thank you.